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MRS. MARGUERITE OSWALD, PHOTOS OF SON
She's the Mother of Lee Harvey Oswald

Lee Harvey Oswald's Mother Speaks Out—a Little

BY MARTIN RALBOVSKY
Chronicle Staff

Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, 67-year-old mother of Lee Harvey Oswald, assassin of President John F. Kennedy, says she is "virtually penniless," and that her main source of income was "one small Social Security check a month."

From her home in Fort Worth, she said: "I don't have any money. Zero. I'm not looking for sympathy. You asked me and I told you."

For that reason, she said, she would not consent to cooperate in an extensive interview — "any interview" — without being reimbursed financially. She said, "everybody makes money off interviews with Marguerite Oswald except me, Marguerite Oswald. All I ever get is people asking me, 'what do you have to say that's new?' Then they say, 'That's not new,' and it ends there.

"Whoever asks the Kennedys what they've got that's new? Whatever they say is new. There's only one mother of Lee Harvey Oswald. I get calls all the time (from media people) and I can say something new every time. But why should I? They just want to use me for a story, sell it, and make money. Nobody wants to make me feel part of what they're doing."

"Look, 12 years I've been trying to get my own book published on the assassination. So far, no publisher will take it. They ask me the same question, 'What's in it that's new?' Other people have made fortunes on books about the assassination and here I am, the mother of the man accused of doing it, and I can't even get mine published."

She did say that she did not agree with the final conclusion of the Rockefeller Report, which said, in effect, that the CIA had nothing to do with the John Kennedy assassination. She said, as she said she has been saying since Nov. 22, 1963, the day her son was arrested and accused of shooting Kennedy in Dallas, that Lee Harvey Oswald was "in some way working in the service of his government."

"It took me 11 years to get the word 'alleged' in front of Lee's name. Nobody says or writes anymore, 'Lee Harvey Oswald, the man who killed the President.' Now they say, 'the man alleged to have killed the President.' That's my work. I'm proud of that. It cost me a great deal of money. I did it not only for my son, but for every family in America. No longer will the police murder accused people in jail."

Oswald said she had spent large amounts of money in attempting to clear her son's name. She said, "I paid for the long distance phone calls, the postage, lawyers, everything. Things I said 10, 12 years ago about that assassination are being said today by the so-called responsible people.

"It took me a long time to be considered 'responsible.' When I first began talking about Lee Harvey Oswald being connected with the government of the United States, everybody thought I was way out. Now, everybody seems to feel the same way. Nobody believes the Warren Report.

"Things Lee Harvey Oswald was saying about Cuba 12 years ago are being said today by United States senators. The very same things about free trade, lifting the embargo. The whole thing has come full cycle. I've been saying all along that Lee Harvey Oswald and John Kennedy were of the same mind in the first place."

She said that she still possesses certain documents that would support her contention that her son did not kill Kennedy. She said she has been trying to get people to inspect them for years, but that "nobody has taken me seriously. They think I haven't got anything better to do with my time."

"But for one thing I can show anybody letters I received way back in 1960 from the State Department, informing me that my son had not renounced his U.S. citizenship. These letters disprove everything that has ever been written about Lee Harvey Oswald and his trip to Russia."

She said, however, that she would not produce these letters for media inspection without first being paid. The Chronicle refused her offer.